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Market News Branch

By Executive Order, the President has designated Monday, December 24, 2001, a Federal holiday. Reports that would normally be released on this Monday will be released on Wednesday, December 26, 2001.

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices for next week's trading were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Trade sentiments ranged about steady to barely steady. Demand was seasonally light to fair. Food service was fair to good, best for fast food. Supplies ranged adequate to ample but noted as in better balance than earlier in the week. In the parts structure, trading was light. Boneless skinless breasts were fully adequate. Bone-in breasts were readily available and competitively priced. Wings were adequate. Other part items were at least adequate for the limited buying interest. In production areas, live supplies were moderate with weights ranging desirable to heavy, mostly desirable.

Preliminary report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 12/24-12/29/01 (cents per lb)

US GRADE A

AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
(Including branded product)				
Delivered to First Receivers				
Chicago	45.00-49.00	44.00-52.00	47.44	25
Los Angeles	68.00			
New York	45.00-47.00			

Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent

Mississippi	60.00-63.00	47.00-64.00	62.10	81
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GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 63.00 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
588	58.40-66.11	62.90

Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:

ITEM	WTD. AVG. (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	187.00	790
BREASTS - B/S	127.00	2,536
BREASTS - WHOLE	56.00	758
THIGH MEAT - B/S	85.50	392
LEG QUARTERS	28.00	5,349
WINGS	86.00	2,011

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices for next week's deliveries were unchanged from Monday's final. Whole fryer market tone was mostly barely steady. Further offerings of additional whole fryers and wogs fully available with buyer interest very light. Retail movement was slow to fair with limited fill in orders for next week. Food service movement was mixed and in a full range with fast food outlets the best call. Floor stocks were mostly in close balance going into the weekend with sizes desirable to heavy. Parts trading was generally slow with demand for wings and frozen product noted as fairly good for next weeks deliveries. Supplies of wings were in balance to instances tight, leg quarters adequate and breast items ample. The market tone was fully steady to firm on wings, steady on leg quarters and barely steady to weak on the balance.

SOUTHERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trade sentiment was steady at best. Demand entering the holiday weekend was light to fair, best for feature activity. Food service was moderate, with best interest for fast food and restaurants. Supplies were more than sufficient for the light trade needs. In the parts structure, trading was mixed. Bone-in breast were readily available and competitively priced to stimulate additional interest. Boneless skinless breasts were fully adequate and leg items were at least adequate. Wings were adequate. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS The market tone was generally steady. Reported trading on regular commitments at unchanged prices, however new negotiations were mixed. Offerings were fully adequate. Processing plants are scheduled to close for three days in observance of the holiday. Some buyer's interest increased in order to have enough stock on hand to cover anticipated post-holiday needs as transportation after the holiday may be difficult to secure. Retail demand was fairly good overall best for parts. Dealers anticipated light to moderate weekend carryovers.

Ads noted: Southern California - whole body 57-87, boneless breast 178-199, boneless thigh 138, leg quarters 68 and 10# bag 390, thigh 99, drumstick 98 and 5# bag 295, roaster 98-125, duck 169; Northern California - roaster 99, boneless breast 269, cornish hen 199; Denver - boneless breast 199; Arizona - thigh 89, drumstick 89, whole leg 179, roaster 99-149 and boneless breast 119-399.

NORTHEAST REGION BROILER/FRYER Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers increased slightly but was generally no better than fair as dealers maintained closely balanced floorstocks entering the holiday lengthened weekend. Offerings of all sizes ranged adequate to fully adequate, but were noted as less burdensome. Movement through retail and distributive channels was seasonally light and unaggressive. The market tone was about steady. In the parts complex, bone-in breasts remained ample and discounted, and boneless-skinless breasts were fully adequate. Dark meat items were at least sufficient. Wings ranged balanced to adequate.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was seasonally dull. Seller offerings were more than sufficient for current inquiry, particularly on the 3.0 and heavier sizes. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights were mostly desirable to heavy. Processing schedules were heavy when combined with operations planned on Saturday. Most plants are scheduled to be closed on both Monday and Tuesday next week. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 48 to 62 cents. Trade sentiment was barely steady. In the parts complex, wings were in generally good balance. All other cuts were at least adequate for the limited buying interest.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

BRANDED U.S. GRADE A

RANGE	44-66
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	51.56
NO. OF BOXES	8,557
CUMULATIVE	
	12/17/01-12/21/01 50.79
	12/18/00-12/22/00 49.33
NO. OF BOXES	
	12/17/01-12/21/01 50,579
	12/18/00-12/22/00 65,759

*8 of 8 plants reporting.

DEC 20

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

DEC 21

POUNDS					POUNDS					WEEKLY	
ITEM	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	WTD AVG	
BREAST - B/S	868	105.00-170.00	120-125	123.30	827	105.00-170.00	120-126	122.73	4,270	123.76	
TENDERLOINS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				122	105.00-190.00	110-115	126.89	562	132.00	
BREAST - LINE RUN	75	58.00-62.00	58-60	58.53	75	56.00-62.00	56-58	56.80	394	58.38	
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				370	58.95	
LEGS	88	32.50-48.00	-	33.91	88	32.50-48.00	-	33.91	512	35.89	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	556	21.00-27.00	21-23	22.11	436	21.00-27.00	21-22	21.72	2,260	21.88	
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,150	25.00-29.50	25-26	25.49	1,060	23.00-29.50	25-27	25.43	6,031	25.21	
WINGS (WHOLE)	283	85.00-89.00	85-87	86.41	283	85.00-87.00	-	86.41	1,448	86.65	
WINGS (CUT)	340	94.00-105.00	95-97	95.49	426	94.00-109.00	95-99	98.27	2,084	98.04	
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				48	42.00-50.00	-	43.88	238	46.03	
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				55	41.00-50.00	-	43.55	208	44.86	
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				23	84.00-95.00	-	85.52	133	86.65	

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS

TRADING FOR DEC 20, 2001 F.O.B. DOCK.

TODAY'S**RANGE**
39.50 - 44.00**AVERAGE**
40.81*****
WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS

TRADING FOR DEC 21, 2001 F.O.B. DOCK.

TODAY'S**RANGE**
39.50 - 44.00**AVERAGE**
40.61**5-DAY****AVERAGE**
40.41

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS Trucklot buying activity was about fair entering the holiday weekend, although, dealers continued with very selective posture in an attempt to keep inventories as balanced as possible. Offerings of bone-in breasts remained ample and sharply discounted to stimulate movement. Boneless skinless breasts were fully adequate. Dark meat cuts were at least sufficient and wings ranged balanced to adequate. Movement through retail and distributive channels ranged light to no better than fair as the focal point of the market centered around traditional holiday items. The market tone was barely steady to weak on bone-in breasts, about steady on the balance of cuts.

ICE PACKED B/F PARTS, DLIVRD TO 1ST RCVRS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER LB.

DEC 20				DEC 21				WEEKLY	
ITEM	CURRENT NEG	WTD		CURRENT NEG	WTD			WTD AVG	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS			
BREAST - B/S	115	118.29	339,280	115	123.15	368,160	120.63		1,651,420
TENDERLOINS	100	103.29	63,640	100	102.20	119,067	103.40		364,922
BREAST - WITH RIBS	47-48	56.55	202,320	45-46	53.08	225,640	57.38		1,021,640
BREAST - LINE RUN	47	47.14	174,760	45	44.34	194,560	49.08		856,440
LEGS	37-38	41.48	185,480	37-38	41.02	196,400	40.97		871,960
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	22-23	24.35	407,682	22-23	24.86	228,315	24.94		1,692,724
DRUMSTICKS	38-39	41.95	91,120	38-39	41.61	95,740	41.38		510,460
THIGHS	28-29	34.43	70,300	28-29	36.96	64,490	35.25		364,270
B/S THIGHS	86-87	86.52	58,920	86-87	86.06	57,680	84.03		294,930
WINGS (WHOLE)	83-84	91.32	227,280	83-84	91.17	278,320	90.56		1,416,520
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	13.20	38,800	10-12	12.14	38,040	12.26		192,640
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	36.37	9,080	30-35	35.17	16,040	35.94		65,710
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	58.01	24,120	55-60	57.93	26,480	56.60		126,320

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). * TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

		ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG		AVG	
		12/21	12/20	12/19	12/18	WTS	12/19	12/18	WTS
ALA	5,583	4,065	3,970	4,037	5.11	5.08	4,024	5.15	
ARK	6,232	5,287	5,276	4,794	4.86	4.98	5,720	4.93	
DELMARVA	3,562	2,335	2,124	2,069	5.33	5.11	2,209	5.09	
KY-LA-TN	2,570	1,877	1,924	1,657	4.52	4.61	1,728	4.55	
MISS	3,492	2,763	2,289	2,653	5.16	5.02	2,778	5.12	
NC	3,265	2,623	2,374	2,587	6.00	6.07	2,584	5.99	
TEXAS	3,497	2,424	2,372	2,161	4.94	4.88	2,370	4.99	
TOTAL	28,201	21,374	20,329	19,958	5.10	5.12	21,413	5.12	
MON-FRI	111,927(A)						105,618(A)		

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 21-Dec 01 and 22-Dec-01 is estimated to be 42,192,000 up 31.31 percent from a week ago and up 53.0 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 32,132,000; last year 27,578,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the week ending 22-Dec-01 is estimated to be 161,938,000 head up 4.6 percent from a week ago, and up 9.2 percent from a year ago
(Last week 154,764,000 Last year 148,274,000)**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY,
DELIVERED TO RETAILERS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
(L.A. AREA)**

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	84-86
ROASTERS 4# & UP	71-90
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	
DUCKS	139
RABBITS-WHOLE	
RABBITS-CUT UP	

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY**DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK 93-94
	DRY PACK 95-102
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK 104-113
	DRY PACK 113-123
HENS OVER 5#	DRY PACK 91
	ICE PACK 98
DUCKS	152-166

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending December 08, 2001 (Preliminary),

(A) Fast food/(B) Retail (C) Deboning

Food service

4.20 Lbs & down 4.21-5.25 Lbs 5.26 Lbs & Up

	THOUSANDS		
Head	30,731	18,082	53,466
Avg Weight	3.76	4.74	6.13
% of total /1	30%	18%	52%

COMPARISONS

Last week	25,351	16,423	41,335
Avg Weight	3.76	4.70	6.09
% of total /1	31%	20%	50%
Same week, yr ago /2	26,937	25,366	42,883
Avg Weight	3.73	4.71	6.10
% of total /1	28%	27%	45%
To date/2001	1,508,772	1,314,096	2,120,926
To date/2000	1,600,896	1,604,637	1,989,859

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding.

/2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

WEEK ENDING 15-Dec-2001 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
THOUSANDS					
HEAD	154,764(A)	1,945	1,403	3,348	479
AVG WT	5.08	3.59	7.86	5.38	6.85
LAST WEEK	156,932	1,901	1,684	3,585	508
SAME WK YR AGO	148,530	1,900	1,202	3,102	566
AVG WT	5.18	3.61	8.25	5.41	6.60
TO-DATE/2001	7,674,977	89,036	69,241	158,277	25,220
TO-DATE/2000	7,672,039	94,278	71,787	166,065	22,651

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 152 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 156.6 million head or 4.6 million head more than or 103 percent of estimated fryers available.

EAST PETERSBURG POULTRY - DATE OF AUCTION: DEC 18, 2001

	RANGE	RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	.70 - .98	Silkies 2.00 - 3.50 ea.
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	.70 - .94	Geese
Pekin Ducks	.30 - .44	9-14 LBS .30 - .44
Red Fowl 4-4.5 LBS	.20 - .48	Pigeons 1.75 - 2.25ea.
Red Fowl 5-6 LBS	.50 - .96	White Pigeons 2.60 - 3.00ea.
Crossbred Fowl 5-9 LBS	.50 - .92	Rabbits
Crossbred Roosters		4-6 LBS 1.10 - 1.60
4-6 LBS	.30 - .88	Rabbits
Crossbred Roosters		7-11 LBS 1.10 - 1.54
7-11 LBS	.50 - .92	Bunnies 1.00 - 5.50ea.
Guinea Fowl	1.05 - 1.25	Guinea Pigs .25 - 2.00ea.
Banty Roosters	2.00 - 5.00 ea	Kid Goats 20.00 - 34.00ea.
Banty Hens	1.50 - 3.00 ea	Doves 4.00 - 5.50ea.
Leghorn Hens	.05 - .12	Pullets
Leghorn Roosters	.20 - .34	4-6 LBS .50 - .64
		Total Coops Sold 1,010

NOTICE

DUE TO THE UPCOMING HOLIDAYS, NO SALES WILL BE REPORTED FOR DECEMBER 25, 2001 AND JANUARY 1, 2002 BEGINNING JANUARY 8, 2002, ALL POULTRY WILL BE AI TESTED

EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 17-DEC-2001

DUCKLINGS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	137	143
MOSTLY		

MIDWEST	122-126	123-127
MOSTLY		

ROASTERS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	62-67	64-65
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	65-85	65-73

SQUABS: NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	60.48-69.66
14 OZ.	66.96-76.14
16 OZ.	73.44-83.43

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS Prices unchanged. Trade sentiment steady. Demand was moderate to fairly good. Sizes were desirable. Slaughter schedules full-time to reduced due to the holiday. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18oz boneless breast at \$5.00-5.25, bone in legs at \$1.35-1.38, gizzards at \$1.35-1.40, wings at \$.50-.75, livers at \$.50-1.50, and feet at \$.90-1.15.

NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 17-DEC-2001

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	116-124	125
MOSTLY		

ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO

ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
NOVEMBER 10	156.4	151.8	103	4.93
17	154.1	148.1	104	5.10
24	115.0	149.1	77	4.98
DECEMBER 1	159.0	152.5	104	5.18
8	158.8	154.1	103	5.26
15	156.6	152.0	103	5.08
YEAR TO DATE	7768.3	7718.1	101	
DECEMBER 22		145.7		
29		141.6		

BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER

	THOUSANDS				
W/E	12/22/01	12/15/01	% CHG	12/23/00	% CHG
Broilers	161,938	154,764*	+05	148,274*	+09
Cattle	702	698	+01	642*	+09
Hogs	2,145	2,051	+05	1,880*	+14
Under Federal Inspection					
* ACTUAL					

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL Majority prices were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand ranged moderate to good. Supplies were sufficient on lights, good balance to tight on heavies. Undertone was generally steady on lights, at least steady to fully steady on heavies.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS)
26-27.5 MAJORITY 26.5	31-38 MAJORITY 33-35

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS)
26-28.5 MAJORITY 26.5-27	32.5-41 MAJORITY 35-36.5

EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices were unchanged. Demand was fair at best and generally unaggressive. Offerings were mostly adequate. Processing schedules were normal to less than normal. Cannery movement was mostly moderate and well cleared. The undertone was steady.

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Trading was too few to report. Demand was fair for fully adequate supplies of light fowl. Schedules were reduced. Finished sales were slowing. Trade sentiment was about steady.

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices unchanged. Offerings were at least fully adequate for the light to moderate demand. Slaughter schedules reduced in observance of the Christmas holiday for next week. Trade sentiment steady.

WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN Plants worked mainly full schedules this week but schedules sharply curtailed next week due to the holiday. Offerings ample.

LIVE HENS

Cents per pound, generally for slaughter the following week.

<u>HEAVY</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>MAJORITY</u>
Southeast Heavy	TFEWR	(1)
Southeast Heavy	TFEWR	(2)
f.o.b. plant	TFEWR	
South Central Heavy	TFEWR	(1)
<u>LIGHT</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>MAJORITY</u>
Eastern Light	0-0	(1)
Eastern Light	0-0	(2)
So. Central Light	TFEWR	(2)
No. Central Light	TFEWR	(1)
No. Central Light	0	(2)

(1) Buyer Loading (2) Producer Loading

(TFEWR) TOO FEW TO REPORT

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was fair to moderate for adequate but reduced offerings. Processing plants were on holiday schedules for next week. Canner supplies were about adequate and clearing satisfactorily. The market tone was at least steady to fully steady.

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Trading was too few to report. Demand was moderate for adequate offerings. Schedules were reduced for next week. Finished sales clearing current production. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

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